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A.R. Robertson

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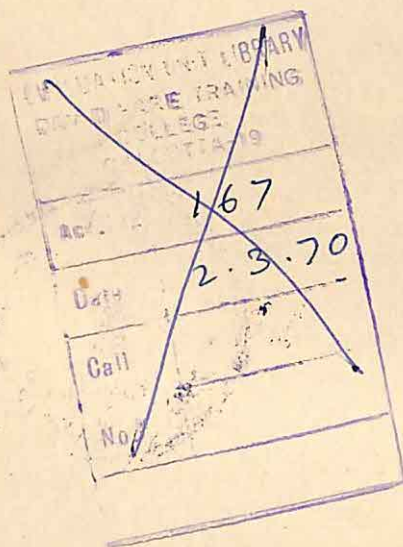
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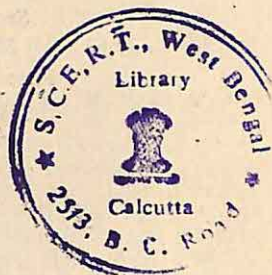
Thinking and Writing Book 3



A First Book of English Comprehension

A. R. ROBERTSON M.A.

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36A, Mount Road, Madras-2
3/5 Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi-1

© A. R. ROBERTSON 1961

First published 1961

Second impression 1962

Third impression 1964

First Indian impression 1966

New impression 1969

Price Rs 2'60

*Published in India by arrangement with
Longmans Green & Co. Ltd., London*

PRINTED IN INDIA
BY BASUSREE PRESS, 80/6, GREY STREET
CALCUTTA-6

FOREWORD

This is the first of a series of four books of exercises in English Comprehension and is intended for the lowest junior classes in the secondary school. The passages have been chosen with an eye to variety and intrinsic interest, while the exercises have deliberately been kept simple. For the most part the questions may be answered from the information contained in the extracts. At this stage, when it is desirable to encourage a pupil's confidence, it is unwise to test implications or even allusions except those which may properly be expected to belong to average general knowledge.

The passages have been arranged in an ascending order of difficulty but all should be within the compass of average pupils in the 11-13 age group.

A. R. R.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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from the 7 November 1959 issue of that paper, 'Ten Years of Milk Distribution' by J. G. Inglis, and 'Mighty Man of Cadboll' by Alastair Phillips, both from 'Spring Survey of Agriculture' 1960; the author's agents and Duell, Sloan & Pearce Inc., New York, for the extracts from *Highways of the Sun* by Victor von Hagen; Rupert Hart-Davia Ltd. for the extract from *Tibetan Marches* by Andre Migot; Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. for the extracts from *The Camp at Auld-Man-Shiel* by L. E. O. Charlton, and *Canada Ride* by Mary Bosanquet; the author's executrix for the extract from *The Otter Book* by Phyllis Kelway; Longmans, Green & Co. Ltd. for the extracts from *Isle of Cloves* by F. D. Ommannney; Lutterworth Press for the extract from *Zoo Quest to Guiana* by David Attenborough; the Viscountess Malden and W. W. Norton & Company Inc., New York, for the material from *Climbs in the Canadian Rockies* by Frank S. Smythe; Mr. Moray McLaren for the extract from *The Scots*; Mr. Alan Moorehead for the extract from *Rum Jungle*, published by Hamish Hamilton Ltd.; Frederick Muller Ltd. and McGraw-Hill Company of Canada Ltd. for the extract from *The Gown of Glory* by Agnes Sligh Turnbull, published by America under the title of *After You, Marco Polo*; The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and The Society of Authors for the extracts from *Idle Days in Patagonia* by W. H. Hudson; *The Times* for the extract from 'Natural and Synthetic Diamonds' by H. Judith Milledge, which appeared in The 'Times Science Review,' Spring, 1960; the author's agent for the extract from *The Gown of Glory* by Agnes Sligh Turnbull, published by Wm. Collins Sons & Co. Ltd., The Estate of the late Mr. H. G. Wells for the extract from *The Diamond Maker*; and the extracts from 'Picking up Terrible Trouble' by Amelia B. Edwards from *The World's Thousand Best Stories*, and 'A True Story' by Benjamin Disraeli from *The Masterpiece Library of Short Stories*, published by the Educational Book Company Ltd.

CONTENTS

Mrs. Grumbit R. M. BALLANTYNE	2
Bird Prejudices M. F. M. M.	4
Dealing with Pests in Australia ALAN MOOREHEAD	6
Hunting in Polar Regions F. SPENCER CHAPMAN	8
A Terrifying Experience GERALD M. DURRELL	10
The Embankment by Night H. G. WELLS	12
Night Intruders EARL DENMAN	14
Medieval Buildings HELEN COOKE	16
Juggles PHYLLIS KELWAY	18
Milk Marketing J. G. INGLIS	20
A Ruined Castle NORMAN ELLISON	22
Towards Clean Air <i>The New Scientist</i>	24
Cheetahs as Pets ALASTAIR SCOBIE	26
From Tehran to Kabul JEAN BOWIE SHOR	28
Duncan Keeps Guard J. FENIMORE COOPER	30
Hidden Treasure WASHINGTON IRVING	32
A School in Pemba F. D. OMMANNEY	34
The Châlet LADY WINIFRED FORTESCUE	36
A Dangerous Encounter FRANK S. SMYTHE	38
Spanish Conquest VICTOR VON HAGEN	40
Insect Marauders ANNE SPEARMAN	42
Escape to the Country MORAY MCLAREN	44
New Lamps for Old <i>Esso Magazine</i>	46
Capybara DAVID ATTENBOROUGH	48

The Hill Road	L. E. O. CHARLTON	50
The Cadboll Smiddy	ALASTAIR PHILLIPS	52
Phantom Lady	BENJAMIN DISRAELI	54
The Conquerors of Rome	H. A. DAVIES	56
Living Dangerously	F. SPENCER CHAPMAN	58
Monday	AGNES SLIGH TURNBULL	60
Escape From The Moors	MUNGO PARK	62
The Old Quarry	NORMAN ELLISON	64
Blantyre	LAURENS VAN DER POST	66
South American Incident	VICTOR VON HAGEN	68
Strange Lodgings	ANDRE MIGOT	70
The King of the Baboons	PERCIVAL GIBBON	72
Natural and Synthetic Diamonds	H. JUDITH MILLEDGE	74
East Africa and the Portuguese	F. D. OMMANNEY	76
Unpleasant Company	AMELIA B. EDWARDS	78
The War with Nature	W. H. HUDSON	80
The Miracle of Danger	W. H. HUDSON	82
Rodeo	MARY BOSANQUET	84
The Passing of the Age of Steam	F. D. OMMANNEY	86

A First Book of English Comprehension

Before you attempt to answer the questions, read the passages carefully more than once.

Write your answers in sentences.

Mrs. Grumbit

Mrs. Grumbit was mild and gentle, and little, and thin, and old—perhaps seventy-five ; but no one knew her age for certain, not even herself. She wore an old-fashioned, high-crowned cap, and a gown of bed-curtain chintz, with flowers on it the
5 size of a saucer. It was a curious gown, and very cheap, for Mrs. Grumbit was poor. No one knew the extent of her poverty and more than they did her age ; but she herself knew it, and felt it deeply—never so deeply, perhaps, as when her
10 orphan nephew Martin grew old enough to be put to school, and she had not the wherewithal to send him. But love is quick-witted and resolute. A *residence* of six years in Germany had taught her to knit stockings at a rate that cannot be described, neither *conceived* unless seen. She knitted two dozen pairs. The vicar took one dozen, the doctor took the other.
15 The fact soon became known. Shops were not numerous in the village in those days, and the *wares* they supplied were only second-rate. Orders came pouring in ; Mrs. Grumbit's knitting-needles clicked, and her little old hands wagged with *incomprehensible rapidity* and *unflagging regularity*; and Martin
20 Rattler was sent to school.

R. M. BALLANTYNE *Martin Rattler*

QUESTIONS

1. Suggest alternative words or phrases for those printed in italics. [8]
 2. What relation was Mrs. Grumbit to Martin Rattler ? [2]
 3. Why is Mrs. Grumbit's gown described as curious? [2]
 4. Synonyms are words of approximately the same meaning. Suggest a synonym for 'wherewithal' (1. 10). [1]
 5. Express in your own words, 'But love is quick-witted and resolute' (1. 10). [3]
 6. Replace the clause, 'that cannot be described' (1. 12), by a single word with the same meaning. [1]
 7. Mention two reasons why Mrs. Grumbit easily found purchasers for the stockings she knitted. [2]
 8. Some words are so pronounced as to imitate sounds. Examples are *clang*, *thud*, *buzz*. They are called onomatopoeic words or examples of onomatopoeia. Quote one onomatopoeic word from the passage. [1]
- [20]

Bird Prejudices

When the Ospreys successfully reared three young ones in Inverness-shire in the summer of 1959, more than 14,000 people saw them and signed the visitors' book at the specially constructed hide where they could watch without being seen by the birds and disturbing them. One wonders, nevertheless, what interest the public would have shown in a bird that was not so large and spectacular as the Osprey.

The Osprey, of course, nested regularly in Scotland up to the beginning of this century, but in 1959 there also nested successfully in Scotland a bird that has never nested there before. It is small and brown, and bred in the depths of a vast and trembly bog, and so has received no publicity. Nobody has been to visit it except the two Yorkshire boys who found it and a Scottish expert whom they called in to check their identification. It is the Wood Sandpiper, a small northern shore bird of which the general public has never heard. Large and showy animals are in greater need of protection than small drab ones, but to the biologist the dull ones are often of greater interest.

M. F. M. M. 'Bird Prejudices' (adapted) (from *The Glasgow Herald*)

QUESTIONS

1. (a) Where, in 1959, did Ospreys successfully breed in this country? [1]
(b) Was this the first occasion on which they did so? Give a reason to support your answer. [2]
2. (a) How was it possible to count the number of people who came to see the Ospreys? [2]
(b) How was such a vast crowd able to observe the birds without disturbing them? [2]
3. What reason does the author give for the great interest shown in the Ospreys? [2]
4. (a) Name the bird which, in 1959, nested successfully in Scotland for the first time. [1]
(b) Who discovered it? [1]
(c) How did they know that they had named it correctly? [2]
5. Why are large and showy animals in greater need of protection than small drab ones? [2]
6. What is a biologist? [2]
7. Suggest alternatives for these words, as used in the passage : spectacular (1. 7) ; trembly (1. 12) ; publicity (1. 12). [3]
[20]

Dealing With Pests In Australia

Australia has had some *spectacular successes* in dealing with pests, mostly by working on the principle of setting a pest to destroy a pest. When the prickly pear was sweeping across the grazing land at the rate of hundreds of miles a year they imported from America an insect called the cactoblastis which enjoys a diet of prickly pear *to the exclusion of all else* ; and before long there was no prickly pear trouble in Australia. In the same way when the rabbits became *intolerable* (they were the descendants of a few pairs brought in to feed the early colonists last century), the scientists found a mosquito which was apparently designed by nature with the express purpose of destroying rabbits.

But nothing yet has been found *game enough* to tackle the white ant. He keeps on munching his way through the centuries, *unimpeded* by droughts, fires, diseases, or anything else. His *ultimate object*, clearly, is to eat the world.

ALAN MOOREHEAD *Rum Jungle*

QUESTIONS

1. Give equivalent words or expressions for those printed in italics. [6]
 2. Explain the general plan adopted by the Australians to destroy pests. [2]
 3. Why was it essential to get rid of the prickly pear? [2]
 4. For what purpose were rabbits first introduced into Australia? [2]
 5. How was the number of rabbits kept down? [2]
 6. Express in your own words, 'designed by nature with the express purpose of destroying rabbits' (1. 11). [2]
 7. What pest has defied all efforts to exterminate it? [2]
 8. Do you think the author expects his readers to take the last sentence of the extract seriously? If not, why did he write it? [2]
- [20]

Hunting In Polar Regions

To hunt animals and birds is one of the most primitive instincts in man, and therefore one of the strongest; but many hunters, especially if they are *naturalists* and bird-watchers too, find it very difficult to justify shooting a beautiful creature like a red stag, or a wild goose, or even a rabbit unless it is absolutely necessary to support human life. On expeditions, however, living off the country can be *justified*, particularly in the Arctic or Antarctic regions where fresh meat is necessary to avoid *scurvy*, and where in any case it is very difficult to bring out enough tinned or dried food to last through the long polar winter. In the Antarctic there is little pleasure to be derived from hunting. There are no polar bears or foxes down there, and as there are no inhabitants either, the seals and penguins are perfectly tame and no skill is required to capture them. In the Arctic, on the other hand, seals are as *wary* as the polar bears which pursue them, and the pleasure of hunting is increased a hundredfold by the companionship of the Eskimo, who are altogether delightful people.

F. SPENCER CHAPMAN *Living Dangerously*

QUESTIONS

1. Explain the meaning of 'a primitive instinct' (1. 1). [2]
 2. Why are naturalists and bird-watchers particularly opposed to the shooting of birds and animals for pleasure? [2]
 3. When only would they agree that such killing was necessary? [2]
 4. What do you understand by 'living off the country'? (1. 7) [3]
 5. Give two reasons why polar expeditions find it necessary to live off the country. [3]
 6. What takes away from the pleasure of hunting in Antarctic regions? [3]
 7. Mention at least two reasons why hunting in the Arctic offers much more sport. [3]
 8. Give the meaning of the words printed in italics. [2]
- [20]

A Terrifying Experience

I walked on, considering my luck; in the space of a few hours I had seen a serval and two squirrels, and this was a record for any day. I *presumed* that, as the mountain was so rarely visited by human beings, the animal population was less suspicious than in the lowlands. Also, of course, the forest here was more open, being broken by cliffs and grassfields, and this made the animals easier to see and approach. As I was *musings* on this the silence of the forest was suddenly shattered by the most blood-curdling scream, which was followed by bursts of horrible, echoing *maniacal* laughter, that screeched and gurgled through the trees, and then died to a dreadful *whimpering* which *eventually* ceased. I stood frozen in my tracks, and my scalp pricked with fright: I have heard some ghastly sounds at one time and another, but for sheer horrific impact this was hard to beat. After a few minutes' silence I summoned what little courage I possessed and crept through the trees in the direction from which the sounds had come. Suddenly it broke out again, spine-chilling gurgles of laughter *interspersed with* shrill screams, but it was much farther away now, and I knew that I should not catch up with whatever was producing it. Then suddenly I realised what was making this fearsome noise: it was the evening *serenade* of a troupe of chimpanzees.

GERALD M. DURRELL *The Overloaded Ark*

QUESTIONS

1. Give the meaning, as used in the passage, of the words printed in italics. [4]
2. Why did the writer feel this was a lucky day for him? [1]
3. How did he account for his luck? Give more than one reason. [2]
4. What sounds suddenly broke the silence? [2]
5. What effects had these sounds on the writer? [2]
6. Express in your own words 'for sheer horrific impact this was hard to beat' (l. 14). [3]
7. How long did it take the author to summon up courage to move? [2]
8. The writer of this passage is a master of vivid description. Quote a sentence which brings out this power and say why it appeals to you. [4]

[20]

The Embankment By Night

Some business had detained me in Chancery Lane until nine in the evening, and thereafter, having some *inkling* of a headache, I was disinclined either for entertainment or further work. So much of the sky as the high cliffs of that narrow canon of traffic left visible spoke of a *serene* night, and I determined to make my way down to the Embankment, and rest my eyes and cool my head by watching the *variegated* lights upon the river. Beyond comparison the night is the best time for this place ; a merciful darkness hides the dirt of the waters, and the lights of this transition age, red, glaring orange, gas-yellow and electric white, are set in shadowy outlines of every possible shade between grey and deep purple. Through the arches of Waterloo Bridge a hundred points of light mark the sweep of the Embankment, and above its parapet rise the towers of Westminster, warm grey against the starlight. The black river goes by with only a *rare* ripple breaking its silence, and disturbing the reflections of the lights that swim upon its surface.

H. G. WELLS *The Diamond Maker*

QUESTIONS

1. Give from the passage four pieces of evidence that the author is writing about London. [4]
 2. What reasons prompted the author to make his way to the Embankment? (Give three reasons.) [3]
 3. (a) What are 'the cliffs' referred to in line 4? [1]
(b) Why does the writer describe Chancery Lane as 'that narrow cañon of traffic'? [2]
 4. For what reasons does the author think the Embankment looks its best at night? [2]
 5. What is the meaning of 'this transition age'? (1. 10). [2]
 6. How is it possible to trace the outline of the Embankment at night? [2]
 7. What two effects are caused by a ripple on the river? [2]
 8. Suggest other words to replace those printed in italics in the passage. [2]
- [20]

Night Intruders

- Our last night at Kabara was memorable for a sound which disturbed me in the early hours of the morning when all was quiet and not a glimmer of light showed. My confused excitement and tiredness combined to rob me of any proper sleep, and the best I could do was to *doze fitfully* from time to time. During one of these *sluggish* periods of half-sleep, I was brought to *full consciousness* by a slight rocking motion and a coarse, *rasping* sound. A chill sweat broke from me, for I had not the strength of mind or body with which to *combat* fear.
- 5 I sat bolt upright in bed, no doubt making a noise as I did so, for there was a sudden scampering outside which told plainly the cause of the disturbance—buffaloes had been using the hut as a rubbing post. In the morning we saw their *spoor* leading to and from one corner of the hut, and several hairs
- 15 wedged between the splinters of wood. In the calm light of day, it was a pleasure to know that our presence had not *debarred* the wild life from its *rightful access* to this clearing in the forest.

EARL DENMAN *Alone To Everest*

QUESTIONS

1. Give the meaning of the words and phrases printed in italics. [7]
2. The author describes his last night at Kabara as 'memorable'. Do you consider this description justified? Give a reason for your answer. [3]
3. Account for the writer's sleeping only fitfully that night. [2]
4. What awakened him? [2]
5. What was the author's state of mind when he awoke? Quote from the passage to support your answer. [3]
6. Why did the buffaloes run away? [1]
7. Although the intruders scampered off into the darkness, the author was able to identify them. How? [2]
[20]

Medieval Buildings

European people of the Middle Ages were great builders of churches and castles. These two classes of buildings expressed the ideas that ruled medieval life. The village might be, and generally was, a collection of damp, dirty, and draughty *hovels*,
5 the city an insanitary *huddle* of houses, fit breeding-place for the plague, the castle primarily a fortress and secondarily a dark, cold, inconvenient dwelling. But the church was built as well and decorated as *lavishly* as *strenuous* local effort could contrive ; its windows were of glass, its walls painted with *crude*
10 pictures in bright colours, its sacramental vessels of silver. And its spire, or the *pinnacles* of its tower, *mutely* pointing upwards, directed the gaze of villager and citizen away from an unsatisfactory condition of earthly life to a cloudland of easy vision where fancy beheld the gates of *paradise*, the flight of
15 angels, and the finger of divine mercy or wrath writing signs on the sky for man to read.

HELEN COOKE *A Book of Modern Peoples*

QUESTIONS

1. Give the meaning, as used in the passage, of the words printed in *italics*. [4]
2. Two types of building were given particular attention in the Middle Ages.
 - (a) Name the two types of building. [1]
 - (b) What reason does the author give for the attention paid to them ? [1]
 - (c) Express in your own words the ideas which, according to the author, ruled medieval life. [3]
3. Name some disadvantages of living in a medieval village. [2]
4. (a) What great risk to health had medieval town-dwellers to face ? [1]
(b) Find, in sentence three, two reasons for the existence of this risk. [1]
5. Why was the medieval castle an uncomfortable place in which to live ? [2]
6. What efforts were made to beautify medieval churches both inside and out ? [3]
7. (a) What are the 'sacramental vessels' referred to in line 10 ?
(b) From your general knowledge name two services in which sacramental vessels are used in the Christian Church. [3]
8. Express in your own words the thoughts that a medieval spire might have awakened in a man or woman of that period. (Your answer will probably require more than one sentence.) [4]

[25]

Juggles

From all over the countryside people came to see Juggles. Reports about her travelled far ; but I would not have her turned into a circus animal. Often I said that she was not on view ; but sometimes, for reasons of my own and—as I thought
5 —in the interests of all others, I fetched her from her kennel. In company she was shy, neither speaking nor playing. She hid herself beneath a chair or under the bureau making rude noises when I asked her to come out. Therefore some people imagined that she was a savage animal, capable of biting the
10 hand that had reared her. Few saw her playing with her cork and shouting for the joy of being alive. Even Father and Mother were neutral, saying that she was good enough so long as they were not asked to look after her. By the end of summer she weighed twelve pounds. That was exactly double the
15 weight of her as a half-drowned cub. It was all done on horse's meat, pieces from our butcher, an occasional chicken's head from the poulterer, fresh herrings and rabbits. Mother said, 'That otter costs you a mint of money. You spend a small fortune on her every week.' I think she was right some
20 weeks, for Juggles often ate a couple of pounds in weight at one meal.

PHYLLIS KELWAY *The Otter Book*

QUESTIONS

1. What was Juggles? [1]
 2. Why did people come from all over the countryside to see her? [2]
 3. What does the author mean by saying that she would not have Juggles 'turned into a circus animal'? (1. 3). [2]
 4. Miss Kelway sometimes displayed Juggles 'in the interests of all otters' (1. 5). In what way could she hope to help other otters by showing her pet to the public? [2]
 5. How did Juggles behave (a) in the presence of strangers, (b) at other times? [3]
 6. What impression of Juggles did strangers usually carry away? [2]
 7. In your own words, express how the writer's parents felt about Juggles. [3]
 8. What is the origin and meaning of the phrase 'a mint of money'? (1. 18). [2]
 9. The normal order of an English sentence is subject followed by predicate. Sometimes, in order to lend emphasis to certain words, writers deliberately upset this order. The sentence is then said to be inverted.
The first sentence of this passage is an example of inversion. Rewrite it in subject-predicate order, then say what effect Miss Kelway gained from writing it as she did. [3]
- [20]

Milk Marketing

Scotland is divided into three parts but the purpose is to market milk. The major part, dealing with 85 per cent. of the supply, lies mostly south of a line from Montrose to Oban and is administered by the Scottish Milk Marketing Board. Approximately two-thirds of the milk produced in this area is sold for consumption as liquid milk.

With liquid milk, eight gallons out of every ten are consumed in the home, being either delivered to the doorstep daily or in some of the city's denser districts to a near-by shop. The remaining two gallons reach consumers via the catering trade or in the milk-in-schools scheme.

The liquid milk is by far the most important to the farmer as it yields throughout the year a price that covers his cost of production. It is the only outlet to do so. The farmer obviously wants to sell more in the liquid market and this desire coincides with the views of medical and health authorities.

They say that people do not yet consume enough milk to provide the essentials for keeping nerves and tissues fit to stand up to the noise and hurry of modern life.

Even more important, perhaps, and certainly a more powerful reason for expanding the industry, is that people like milk. The industry has long realised the need to give the customer a safe article—hence the now completed campaign to banish tuberculosis from the dairy herds.

J. G. INGLIS *Ten Year of Milk Distribution* (from *The Glasgow Herald*—Spring Survey of Agriculture, 1960)

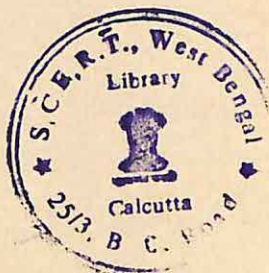
QUESTIONS

1. Give the meanings of the following words as used in the passage : administered (1. 4) ; approximately (1. 5) ; obviously (1. 14) ; coincides (1. 15) ; tissues (1. 18) ; campaign (1. 23). [3]
 2. In what part of Scotland does the Scottish Milk Marketing Board operate? [1]
 3. What proportion of the milk produced in that area is sold other than for consumption as liquid milk? [2]
 4. Name four different ways by which liquid milk finally reaches the consumer. [2]
 5. What is 'the catering trade'? [2]
 6. Why is the farmer anxious to increase the market for liquid milk? [2]
 7. What opinion do doctors hold of the health value of liquid milk? [2]
 8. Suggest a reason why the consumption of liquid milk is likely to increase still further. [1]
 9. Name one important measure taken by farmers to ensure the supply of pure milk. [2]
 10. From your general knowledge, explain the purpose of a Milk Marketing Board and say how it works. [3]
- [20]

S.C.E.R.T., West Bengal

Date.....

Acc. No.....



A Ruined Castle

The ruins of the castle stand on a *rocky eminence* overlooking the sea. The site is of great natural strength, and when the builders had completed the outer and inner defence walls, the stronghold must have been *well-nigh impregnable*. On the
5 side facing the sea, the cliff curves round to form an *unsurmountable barrier*. The bravest and most persistent enemy could not climb that smooth, rocky face rising straight out of the sea for a sheer two-hundred feet. Equally formidable was the defence against any enemy advancing from the landward
10 side. A high *battlemented* wall stretched in a great arc with each end resting on the edge of the cliff. The rock at the base of this outer defence wall had been cut into a deep, dry ditch, crossed only at one point by a drawbridge. Completed somewhere about the year 1290, in the reign of Edward the First,
15 it was a typical example of the lasting work by the master-builders who erected the mighty castles of Conway, Caernarvon, Harlech, and others.

Time has dealt harshly with our castle, and little now remains of its original splendour. The centuries passed, and the
20 bow and arrow gave way to the cannon and musket ; gunpowder laughed at those massive stone walls and rent them asunder ; frost and rain, year after year, completed the work of destruction, and laid what remained standing of those proud, unassailable walls in dust and rubble.

NORMAN ELLISON *Wandering with Nomad*

QUESTIONS

1. Suggest alternatives for the following words as used in the passage: persistent (1. 6) ; sheer (1. 8) ; formidable (1. 8) ; typical (1. 15) ; asunder (1. 22) ; rubble (1. 24). [3]
2. State, in a single sentence, why the original builders chose their site for the castle. [2]
3. What were the castle's natural defences against attack (a) from the sea, (b) from the land? [3]
4. What additional defences had the builders provided? [1]
5. Express, in your own words, the meaning of the first sentence of paragraph two ('Time has dealt . . . splendour'). [2]
6. What invention made such castles useless as places of defence? [1]
7. How did Nature assist in the work of destruction? [2]
8. Give the meaning of the phrases printed in italics. [6]
[20]

Towards Clean Air

- The grime of industrial cities all over the world is an *avoidable nuisance*, brought about by burning coal and oil in conditions which produce smoke, grit and fumes. In Britain, *domestic smoke* has always been one of the main types of pollution : the
- 5 traditional British open coal fire is said to account for about half the smoke entering the air, and, since it is released at low level and from many individual chimneys, it is readily trapped to form 'smog'. The new 'smokeless zones' set up by local authorities under the Clean Air Act are thus by far the most
- 10 significant step taken to purify the air and stop the pollution of *densely populated towns*. But faster progress is needed if cities are to be freed from their *burden of filth* in a reasonable time. However, the housewife herself is tending to move away from coal as its cost has risen and quality decreased. The
- 15 labourless and clean methods of heating offered by electricity, gas and paraffin are gaining ground, and so are smokeless fuels.

'Notes and Comments' (*The New Scientist*, 29 October 1959)
(Adapted)

QUESTIONS

1. Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage : pollution (1. 4) ; traditional (1. 5) ; individual (1. 7) ; 'smog' (1. 8) ; significant (1. 10). [5]
 2. What are the main causes of grime in industrial cities? [2]
 3. Explain the effect on the atmosphere, in Britain, of smoke released from house chimneys. [2]
 4. Why is domestic smoke, for the most part, discharged at low level? [2]
 5. What is 'a smokeless zone' ? (1. 8). [2]
 6. Mention two reasons why housewives are tending to give up the use of coal to heat their houses. [2]
 7. (a) What substitutes for coal are now widely used to heat houses? [2]
(b) Name two advantages these substitutes have over coal. [2]
 8. Suggest alternative expressions for the phrases printed in italics. [6]
- [25]

Cheetahs As Pets

Cheetahs make good pets, but many people hate them because of their habit of killing tiny animals, baby buck and so on—it is as sensible to hate a cat for killing mice, or a terrier for hunting cats. The cheetah is not a brave animal, he is frail and
5 relies on his speed of attack to live. He is too light in weight to bring down a heavy buck ; everything about him is fined down for speed, and he can move at a remarkable pace in his native bush. Working them, I have found they cannot be used too much in direct sunlight, for they tire very quickly and have
10 to relax, panting, in the shade for an hour or so before they can be used again. The danger of keeping a cheetah as a pet is solely that he likes his meat high and scraps of it may lie in his non-retractable claws. When he plays he is inclined to scratch, for despite his claw peculiarity he is really all cat, and
15 plays like a cat. Those poisoned claws can be dangerous, and I once met Carr Hartley in Nairobi looking groggy after a series of anti-tetanus injections which a playful game with Peter the Cheetah had made necessary.

ALASTAIR SCOBIE *Adventurer's Paradise*

QUESTIONS

1. (a) For what reason do many people dislike cheetahs? [1]
(b) Does the author share their opinion? Quote from the passage in support of your answer. [2]
 2. Do you agree that it is foolish to blame a cat for killing mice or a terrier for hunting cats? Give a reason for your opinion. [2]
 3. How does the cheetah make up for lack of courage and physical strength? [2]
 4. What indication is contained in the passage that cheetahs may be usefully employed to serve man? [2]
 5. Under what conditions do cheetahs work best? [1]
 6. Give the meaning of 'high' (1. 12). [1]
 7. (a) Explain the difference between retractable and non-retractable claws. [2]
(b) In what connection is the word 'retractable' very commonly used today? [1]
 8. In your own words, state clearly one danger that arises from keeping a cheetah as pet. [4]
 9. Of which country is Nairobi the capital? [1]
 10. What is the common name for tetanus? [1]
- [20]

There are all sorts of conveyances that can transport you round this world, and I have travelled in everything from Bengali jungle dug-outs to a Mediterranean yacht and trans-Pacific airliners, but the bus that carried us east from Tehran was in a class by itself. It seemed designed for torture rather than travel. The springs were lifeless, and the narrow, upright seats were splintered. An Indian fakir would have adored them. Furthermore, the seats were not designed for longish Americans. The tops caught us just below the shoulder blades, the sharp edges cutting into our spines with every jolt, while our knees banged against the seats in front of us. And that bus did nothing but jolt over what Frank called a 'corrugated obstacle course'. Occasionally, the bouncing became too monotonous even for the driver, who would then turn off the 'highway' and steer through plough fields or across rocky pastures. We decided that Marco Polo, on horseback, was lucky to have predated the 'conveniences' of modern transportation.

JEAN BOWIE SHOR *The Trail of Marco Polo*

QUESTIONS

1. What is the nationality of the writer of this passage?
Give a reason for your answer. [2]
 2. Suggest a single word equivalent for 'in a class by itself' (1. 5). [1]
 3. Which sentence in the passage seems to you to summarise the great difference between this bus and ordinary vehicles of the type? [2]
 4. (a) What is an Indian fakir? [2]
(b) Why would it have afforded particular pleasure to an Indian fakir to travel on this bus? [1]
 5. Make a list of the discomforts suffered by tall passengers. [3]
 6. The author describes the road as a 'corrugated obstacle course'. Express this description in your own words. [3]
 7. How did the driver avoid the worst difficulties of the road? [2]
 8. On what grounds does the author base his conclusion that Marco Polo was lucky to have lived before the era of modern transportation? [2]
 9. Write a short note on Marco Polo. [2]
- [20]

Duncan Keeps Guard

QUESTIONS

For many minutes Duncan succeeded in keeping his senses on the alert, and alive to every moaning sound that arose from the forest. His vision became more acute as the shades of evening settled, and even after the stars were glimmering above his head, he was able to distinguish the *recumbent* forms of his companions and to note the person of Chingachgook, who sat upright and motionless as one of the trees which formed the dark barrier on every side of them. He still heard the gentle breathings of the sisters, who lay within a few feet of him, and not a leaf was ruffled by the passing air, of which his ear did not detect the whispering sound. At length, the *mournful* notes of the whip-poor-will became blended with the moanings of an owl ; his heavy eyes occasionally sought the bright rays of the stars, and then he fancied he saw them through the fallen lids. At instants of momentary wakefulness, he mistook a brush for his associate sentinel ; his head next sank upon his shoulder, which, in turn, sought the support of the ground ; and finally his whole person became *relaxed* and the young man sank into a deep sleep, dreaming that he was a knight of ancient chivalry, holding his midnight *vigils* before the tent of a recaptured princess, whose favour he did not despair of gaining by such a proof of devotion and watchfulness.

J. FENIMORE COOPER *The Last of the Mohicans*

(Slightly adapted)

QUESTIONS

1. (a) What effect did gathering darkness have on Duncan's power of sight? [1]
(b) Mention two facts to support your first answer. [2]
2. How did Chingachgook's posture differ from that of the others? [1]
3. In a single sentence, describe the surroundings in which the group found themselves. [2]
4. Give two examples of the acuteness of Duncan's hearing. [2]
5. How do we know that Duncan did not fall completely asleep at once? [2]
6. What sounds did he hear immediately before he started to doze? [2]
7. In your own words, tell the subject matter of Duncan's dream. [4]
8. (a) Give the meaning of the words printed in italics. [2]
(b) What is meant by 'associate sentinel'? (1. 16). [2]
[20]

Hidden Treasure

The Moor began to read the incantation in a hurried voice. He had scarce finished when there was a noise as of *subterraneous thunder*. The earth shook, and the floor, yawning open, disclosed a flight of steps. Trembling with awe, the two men
5 descended, and by the light of the lantern found themselves in another vault covered with *Arabic inscriptions*. In the centre stood a great chest, secured with seven bands of steel, at each end of which sat an enchanted Moor in armour, but motionless as a statue, being controlled by the power of the incanta-
10 tion. Before the chest were several jars filled with gold and silver and precious stones. In the largest of these they thrust their arms up to the elbow, and at every dip hauled forth handfuls of broad yellow pieces of Moorish gold, or bracelets and ornaments of the same precious metal, while occasionally
15 a necklace of *Oriental pearl* would stick to their fingers. Still they trembled and breathed short while cramming their pockets with the spoils; and cast many a fearful glance at the two enchanted Moors, who sat grim and motionless, glaring at them with unwinking eyes. At length, struck with a sudden
20 panic at some fancied noise, they both rushed up the staircase, tumbled over one another into the upper apartment, overturned and extinguished the waxen taper, and the pavement again closed with a thundering sound.

WASHINGTON IRVING *The Moor's Legacy* (Slightly adapted)

QUESTIONS

1. Suggest alternatives for the following words as used in the passage : yawning (1. 3) ; enchanted (1. 8) ; panic (1. 20) ; grim (1. 18). [2]
2. (a) What is an incantation? [1]
(b) For what purpose, or purposes is an incantation used? [2]
3. In your own words, describe what happened when the Moor ceased his incantation. [2]
4. For what reasons might you assume that the contents of the chest were of great value? [2]
5. Why, nevertheless, did the men turn their attention to the jars rather than to the chest? [2]
6. Mention three indications of the excitement under which the men laboured. [3]
7. Why did they leave the chamber in such haste? [2]
8. What followed upon the extinction of the taper? [1]
9. Give the meaning of the phrases printed in italics. [3]
[20]

A School In Pemba

- A school in Pemba, as in Zanzibar also, was often merely a roof on concrete pillars with rows of desks and a blackboard underneath it. When Keith and his attendant and I arrived the rows of black and brown heads were bent over exercise books or over slates. We were a most welcome distraction from the boredom of multiplication, both for the pupils and for the teachers, I suspected, and every head was raised at once as we approached. The first school we visited was a very isolated one in a remote village at the end of a long, hot, sandy cart track.
- 10 We had to leave the car and walk the last mile and a half and arrived sweaty and thirsty. The children, who were playing outside their open-sided school building, saw us approaching a long way off and fled into the surrounding bush. When we at last arrived at the school building, hot and dusty and streaming with sweat, there was only the young Arab schoolmaster who laughed and apologised. 'They are not used to strangers', he said. One tiny black boy, however, with a large red tarboosh on his head, did not run away but came towards us with a shy smile and held out his hand, which we bent down and gravely
- 20 took. This was a sign for the others to emerge one by one from their hiding places among the bushes and to come forward, each with his hand out, until finally we were shaking hands like royalty, surrounded waist deep in a sea of woolly heads, black faces upraised and lit by white smiles, and tiny fluttering
- 25 hands.

F. D. OMMANNEY *Isle of Cloves*

QUESTIONS

1. Describe the most obvious difference between the School in Pemba and a normal School in Britain. [2]
2. (a) What is the meaning of 'a welcome distraction'? (1. 5). [2]
 (b) Why were the author and his friends such welcome visitors? [2]
3. Explain why the visitors to the school arrived 'sweaty and thirsty' (1. 11). [1]
4. How do you know that children playing outside the school saw the visitors a long way off? [2]
5. What was the nationality of the teacher? [1]
6. Describe the incident which gave the children who had run away confidence to return. [2]
7. Does the phrase 'like royalty' help you in any way to understand the passage? Give a reason for your answer. [2]
8. Quote an effective contrast introduced into the last sentence. [1]
9. Describe a tarboosh (1. 17). [1]
10. Write out, in indirect speech, 'They are not used to strangers,' he said (1. 16). [2]
11. A metaphor is a figure of speech in which one person or thing is identified with another because of some point of resemblance. Quote an example of a metaphor from the passage. [2]

[20]

The Châlet

The châlet stood with its back to the view, and because the plateau was situated between two ranges of mountains, lost the sunshine very early. Therefore its *atmosphere* was sad and its rooms were damp. Also, the continual road of the torrent
5 got on one's nerves. These arguments I continued to put forward whenever the subject of buying the châlet was discussed, and in the end Mademoiselle agreed with me. It would be better to look for some *abandoned* shepherd's hut or barn on the mountain range on the other side of the valley,
10 facing the Meije. This range was sunlit until sunset ; its grassy slopes and *plateaus* were not so steep and were *inteseected* by tracks up which a car could climb to a certain distance and, thenceforth, a mule cart might bring up provisions. Serge was the last to be persuaded. He had set his heart upon our
15 *acquisition* of the châlet and, being a clever *amateur* carpenter, argued that if our landlady refused to do necessary repairs, he, Serge, could effect them marvellously. It took a week of really stormy weather to change his opinion, when sheets of blinding rain flooded the little kitchen, followed by hail which battered
20 his bald head.

LADY WINIFRED FORTESCUE *Mountain Madness*

QUESTIONS

1. Give the meaning, as used in the passage, of the words printed in *italics*. [3]
2. (a) What is a *châlet*? [2]
(b) With which European country do you associate *châlets*? [1]
3. Three people are mentioned in this passage. Who is the only one actually named? [2]
4. (a) Which of the three was the first to disapprove of the site of the *châlet*? [1]
(b) What were her reasons for doing so? [2]
5. What were the advantages of a site on the other side of the valley? [3]
6. Serge was a clever amateur carpenter. How did that affect his opinion of the *châlet*? [2]
7. What finally caused him to change his mind? [2]
8. Hyperbole is a figure of speech which, for the sake of vivid expression, uses deliberate exaggeration. Quote an example of hyperbole from the passage. [2]
[20]

A Dangerous Encounter

QUESTIONS

One day when fishing with a companion in the Jasper National Park, we scrambled down into a canyon in the hope of finding some trout in the stream flowing through it. In order to fish the pools, we had to jump from boulder to boulder between 5 vertical walls of rock. We were engaged in this when a female moose appeared round a bend in the canyon with its calf in close attendance. Both were wading the stream with little difficulty. When the moose saw us, it paused. We both shouted at it intending to scare it off, but instead of doing so it put its 10 head down and commenced to advance on us in a *menacing fashion*. I had a strong feeling that when it came near enough it would charge because it considered itself trapped, and a moose in that position with its calf can be exceedingly dangerous. We were in an equally unhappy position if it charged, for 15 the walls of the canyon rose vertically above us, smooth, waterworn, and unclimbable. The only alternative seemed to be to run, but what chance would we have on the slippery stony bed of the stream against this four-footed creature so accustomed to stream beds? If it *meant mischief* it would 20 certainly encourage it to see us run, so we stood our ground and shouted, I giving some of my high-pitched Alpine yells, which have a greater penetrative power and a more violent reaction on the eardrum than any ordinary shout. For a step or two it continued to advance, then we gave another horrible 25 yell. It was too much for the animal; it turned and fled, pounding along the rocky stream bed with *amazing agility*, its calf close behind it.

FRANK S. SMYTHE *Climbs in the Canadian Rockies*

QUESTIONS

1. Give the meaning of the phrases printed in italics. [6]
 2. (a) What is a canyon? [2]
(b) Quote the words in a sentence or two which bring out one main feature of a canyon. [2]
 3. Why did the fishers not make their way along the banks of the stream they were fishing? [2]
 4. Describe, in your own words, how the moose behaved when it saw the fishers. [3]
 5. Why did the presence of the calf make the moose more dangerous? [2]
 6. Give two reasons why the fishers did not run away. [3]
 7. In your own words, state what were the special qualities of the author's Alpine yells. [2]
 8. (a) What word in the last sentence brings out the suggestion of the moose's great weight? [1]
(b) What words in the same sentence seem to be in strong contrast to the animal's great weight? [2]
- [25]

Spanish Conquest

By 1535, save for unorganised resistance, the whole of the Inca Empire had fallen to the Spaniards. It was then that Francisco Pizarro decided to select a puppet Inca and so rule the defeated *realm* through him. For this purpose he chose a young noble, a direct descendant of the last great Inca, who called himself Manco Capak II. For some time there were no active signs of Indian resistance. The people, stunned by the suddenness of events, had not yet been able to *comprehend* the disaster that had befallen the empire. Then came the uprooting: Indians were marched off as dray animals to carry the *impedimenta* of conquest; the Spaniards took over the communal lands, sending the men in droves to the mines; women were taken from their homes and from the Sun Temples. The conquerors were advancing in all directions with the captive Indians as cargo-bearers, to explore more lands. One army set off for far distant Chile, taking many of the able-bodied troops with it; others went into the forests to the east, leaving Cuzco ill-defended. It was then that the young Inca by a clever *ruse* eluded the watch set on him and disappeared.

VICTOR VON HAGEN *Highway of the Sun*

QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of (a) 'unorganised resistance' (l. 1) ; (b) 'a puppet Inca' ? (l. 3). [4]
2. Who was the leader of the Spaniards? [1]
3. Why was Manco Capak II chosen as puppet Inca? [1]
4. Write a short paragraph, in your own words, explaining why Indian resistance to the Spaniards ceased for a time. [4]
5. What happened
 (a) to the conquered Indian men? [2]
 (b) to the conquered Indian women? [1]
6. In what directions did the Spaniards advance after their conquest of the Inca Empire? [2]
7. How did Manco Capak II take advantage of the removal of Spanish troops from Cuzco? [1]
8. (a) Give single-word equivalents for the words printed in italics. [2]
 (b) What is the meaning of 'dray animals' ? (l. 10). [2]
 [20]

One night I went outside and found a procession of bits of leaves walking across my doorstep. Looking underneath, I discovered that some reddish-brown ants, a quarter the size of their burdens, were responsible for this curious phenomenon, and decided to follow them back to their nest. There was I, clad in nothing but a pair of sandals and a torch, but fired with the fervour of scientific investigation, stooping over these creatures to see how they would deal with some obstacle in their path, and finding hundreds more in front who were nearer the end of their journey.

I thought how wonderful was nature in having made arrangements for such a rapid disposal of dead leaves, when I noticed that some of the leaves were by no means dead, they were bright green and shiny. It was all very well to follow the ants home, but I suddenly wondered where they were coming from, dashed back, and found my fear was only too well-founded. They had stripped my beautiful red-flowered plant, having cut off all the leaves neatly at the base and left nothing but the bare stick. Thunder, fury, and D.D.T. ! But, alas, too late.

ANNE SPEARMAN *Take an Island*

QUESTIONS

1. The author of this passage has a sense of humour.
Quote two expressions which bear this out. [2]
2. In what way was the action of the ants remarkable? [2]
3. What is a 'curious phenomenon'? (l. 4). [2]
4. Why did the author follow the ants back to their nest? [2]
5. Express in your own words 'the fervour of scientific investigation' (l. 7). [3]
6. What was the writer's first reaction when she watched the ants? [3]
7. When and why did her mood suddenly change? [4]
8. Explain the reference to D.D.T. (l. 19). [2]

[20]

Escape To The Country

The industrial areas and towns of Scotland are, for the most part, tightly packed and self-contained. The countryside, and often wild countryside at that, comes right up to their edges and does not fade into them. The average Scots townsman
5 then does not usually have far to go to escape. When he does escape to enjoy himself in his own land his pleasures are these. There is probably first of all his delight in wandering, wandering as far and as remotely as he can within the highly
10 *variegated* scenery of his country. This may take the form of walking (the word hiking is now fortunately dropping out of use), bicycling, motoring, or begging lifts from lorries or indeed any way of getting about which modern means can offer. There are those who are inclined to *deplore* the effects of this
15 outlet of the towns upon the country of Scotland. Apart from the unthinking selfishness of such an attitude of mind, those who take this point of view ignore an essential fact about the present *structure* of the Scottish countryside. It is far too wild and in the North and West, too mountainous and too *sparsely*
20 populated to be spoiled by the *incursions* of those young people from the towns who have the energy and enthusiasm to explore it. Rather their hearts should rejoice, upon our long summer days, to see the countless little encampments by the lochside at the head of the glen and on the moorlands, which are quite wide enough to accommodate these and many others.

MORAY MCLAREN *The Scots*

QUESTIONS

1. Suggest suitable alternatives for the words printed in italics. Your alternatives need not be a single word. [5]
2. Express the meaning of the second sentence in your own words. ('The countryside, . . . fade into them.') [2]
3. How can the industrial worker most easily escape from his drab surroundings? [2]
4. 'The word hiking is now *fortunately* dropping out of use.' From this use of 'fortunately', say whether or not the author likes the word 'hiking'. Give a reason for your answer. [2]
5. What objections may be raised against crowds of industrial workers invading the countryside at week-ends and at holiday times? [2]
6. (a) Does the author sympathise with these objections? [1]
(b) If not, how does he answer them? [3]
7. What does the author himself feel about industrial workers spending their leisure in the country? [2]
8. In line 8 occur the words 'far' and 'remotely'. What is the difference between 'far' and 'remote'? [1]
[20]

It was found that when *crude* oil was boiled and the vapours *condensed* it yielded a fraction that burnt in a lamp better than whale oil. Unfortunately, it was impossible to produce kerosene without at the same time making a quantity of petrol, for which there was then no known use. Thus, about twenty-five per cent of the product of early refiners had to be burnt as valueless. It is perhaps *incredible* now on reflection that there was no place for tomorrow's wealth in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Nevertheless, the yellow flame shed its light in the homes of Victorian England sufficiently, if not *abundantly*, to *dispel the shadows*, reveal the outline of the family portraits aid the large type of the *venerable* book that lay permanently open on the table.

Demand for kerosene rose rapidly and continued until about 1910, when the soft glow of the domestic lamp was gradually extinguished, and first gaslight and finally electricity took its place. This did not mean that the demand for kerosene ceased. On the contrary, it continued to be used in ever growing quantities, not only as an *illuminant* on railways and in light-houses, but also for domestic heating and cooking and to feed the *insatiable appetites* of jet aircraft.

Esso Magazine, Vol. VII, Numbers 3 and 4

QUESTIONS

1. Give the meaning of the words and phrases printed in italics. [5]
 2. Before the discovery of kerosene what fuel was used in oil lamps? [2]
 3. How was kerosene first produced? [2]
 4. To begin with, what happened to the petrol produced along with the kerosene? [2]
 5. (a) Explain fully the meaning of 'tomorrow's wealth' (l. 8). [2]
(b) Name the figure of speech used in the expression 'tomorrow's wealth'. [1]
 6. Quote from the passage to prove that oil lamps did not shed a brilliant light. [2]
 7. What was 'the venerable book that lay permanently open on the table' ? [2]
 8. What are the principal uses of kerosene today? [2]
- [20]

Capybara

We were sitting on the hut steps talking to Mama, when a most extraordinary high-pitched whistling giggle rose from the undergrowth just beyond. The grass parted and two enormous pig-like creatures gravely and ponderously stalked out. They came within a yard of us, sat down on their haunches and surveyed us with disdain. They looked at first sight like two large brown pigs, but their heads were very different for they possessed not a snout, but a nose so blunt that it was almost rectangular *in profile*. This gave them an extremely supercilious expression, the dignity of which was somewhat marred by their *inappropriate* giggles. They were capybara, the largest rodents in the world. I stretched out a hand to one of them and tried to stroke it, but it jerked up its head and snapped at my fingers.

15 "E no 'urt', said Mama. "E wanna suck."

Encouraged, I cautiously poked a finger at the creature's nose. It gave a whistling whinny, bared its bright orange incisor teeth and engulfed my finger in its mouth. As it sucked noisily, I felt my finger-nail grating on what seemed to be two bony rasps half-way down its throat. Mama, whose *pidgin English* was limited, explained by elaborate dumb-show that she had caught the two creatures as tiny youngsters and had raised them on the bottle. They were now almost fully grown but they had never lost the habit of sucking anything that was offered to them. Each of them had a broad red stripe painted round its haunches and Mama told us that she had put it on, so that no hunter would shoot her pets as they rambled through the bush.

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH *Zoo Quest to Guiana*

QUESTIONS

1. Explain the meaning of the phrases printed in *italics*. [6]
2. Suggest alternatives for the following words as used in the passage: ponderously (l. 4); supercilious (l. 10); rodents (l. 12); incisor (l. 17); [4]
3. When did the author first become aware of the presence of the capybara? [1]
4. What word, occurring later in the passage, repeats the idea of 'disdain'? (l. 6). [2]
5. Write a short paragraph, bringing out the contrast between appearance and behaviour, which amused people unfamiliar with the capybara. [5]
6. Express in grammatical English what Mama said to the writer. [2]
7. Do you consider 'engulfed' (l. 18) a good choice of word? Give a reason for your answer. [2]
8. Give one example of an onomatopoeic word used in the passage. [1]
9. What is meant by 'raised them on the bottle'? (l. 23). [2]
[25]

The Hill Road

For the first mile or two the valley wore a pastoral and docile look as if well-tamed by plough and reaper, even the animals at graze being of the more *domesticated* kind. There was a fair amount of arable and the heather-clad hills stood well back on either side. Solid and prosperous-looking farmsteads possessed the low ground by the river, while on the slopes beyond fir wind-breaks, resembling gigantic woolly bears, betokened the presence at widely-scattered intervals of the more easily worked hill farms.

Before long, however, the valley began to narrow and the moors to enshroud it, while the river itself *diminished sensibly in width*. The road continued, and its surface remained smooth, but now gates had to be opened, and carefully shut again, to prevent the cheviot and black-face sheep from straying from their lawful boundaries. A *straggling village* was left behind; a school-house stood beside the road *in stately solitude*; a public house with the unusual name of 'Twice Brewed' peeped through a clump of trees. Still closer came the enfolding hills, ever narrower wound the river. Shingly islets appeared in its middle and its flow became a *steady process of peaty water* passing down with flakes of froth on top. Alders grew along both banks and a *stunted growth* of oak and birch. In many places the moorland slopes were steep, sometimes craggy, and a granite *outcrop*, decked over with grey lichen, was strewn about among the heather.

L. E. O. CHARLTON *The Camp at Auld-Man-Shiel*

QUESTIONS

1. What word, occurring later in the same sentence, reinforces the meaning of 'docile' in sentence one? [1]
 2. State the difference between pastoral and arable land. [2]
 3. Name one purpose, other than to supply timber, for which the fir trees had been grown. [2]
 4. Why is it normal for hill farms to be widely scattered? [2]
 5. Make a list of signs showing that the district through which the road advanced was becoming increasingly remote. [3]
 - (a) From paragraph two, quote a sentence, containing two clauses, in each of which the subject follows the predicate. [2]
 - (b) What does the author gain by inverting the order of words in this way? [2]
 7. (a) What do you understand by 'enshroud'? (l. 11). [1]
(b) What word later in the passage repeats the idea of 'enshroud'? [1]
 8. Give the meaning of the words and phrases printed in italics. [9]
- [25]

The Cadboll Smiddy

The Cadboll Smiddy was a mile away from the manse where I stayed, and, while it was not on our official visiting list, I had occasional chance to enjoy its rare diversions: for in those days we rode in a phaeton¹ drawn by a *dapple*-grey mare, and
5 that was the only place she could be shod.

I used to be allowed to take her riding bareback, and I can still remember the satisfaction that it was, on turning the bend in the road, to see three or four farm horses before us waiting in, and tethered around, the splendidly littered yard before
10 the open smithy door.

Then, I knew, there would be hours to spend, with excuse beyond the possibility of reproach, listening to pleasantly coarse talk, watching what was surely an *exhilarating* craft, and feeling myself to be an accepted part of the clatter and
15 the sparks and the rich *acid* smells.

It was a particular satisfaction to hear that the second horsemen and the *halfins* did not moderate their language for my benefit. I learned much during those hours, not only of local gossip, but of rude biology, animal husbandry, and the *ribaldry*
20 that hangs like a *festoon* around the Horseman's Word.

ALASTAIR PHILLIPS 'Mighty Man of Cadboll': *The Glasgow Herald*, Spring Survey of Agriculture

¹ Phaeton—a four-wheeled carriage, usually drawn by two horses.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the words printed in italics? [3]
 2. Show, by two different quotations from the passage, that the author was not encouraged to visit the smiddy. [3]
 3. What purpose made it necessary for him to go there from time to time? [2]
 4. What is the meaning of 'rare diversions'? (l. 3). [2]
 5. Why was the writer always happy to see three or four horses waiting at the smiddy? [2]
 6. Make a list of sounds, sights, and smells that the author particularly enjoyed on his occasional visits. [4]
 7. The horsemen and the halflins, we are told, did not moderate their language for his benefit. Why might they have been expected to do so? [2]
 8. Use a simpler phrase meaning the same as 'animal husbandry'. [2]
- [20]

Phantom Lady

When I was a young boy I had delicate health, and was of a *pensive and contemplative turn of mind* : it was my delight in the long summer evenings to slip away from my noisy and more robust companions, that I might walk in the shade of a venerable wood, my favourite haunt, and listen to the cawing of the rooks, who seemed as fond of this retreat as I was.

One evening I sat later than usual, though the distant sound of the cathedral clock had more than once warned me to my home. There was a stillness in all nature that I was unwilling to disturb by the least motion.

From my reverie I was suddenly startled by the sight of a tall, slender female who was standing by me, looking sorrowfully and steadily in my face. She was dressed in white, from head to foot, and her garments, which were unusually long and flowing, rustled as she glided through the low shrubs near me as if they were made of the richest silk. My heart beat as if I was dying, and I knew not that I could have stirred from the spot; but she seemed so very mild and beautiful, I did not attempt it. She was like a lovely picture, but not like a living woman. I closed my eyes forcibly with my hands, and when I looked again she had vanished.

BENJAMIN DISRAELI *A True Story* (Adapted)

QUESTIONS

1. (a) Explain the meaning of the phrases printed in italics. [4]
(b) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage: robust (l. 4); venerable (l. 5); retreat (l. 6); reverie (l. 11); startled (l. 11); flowing (l. 15). [3]
2. In your own words, tell how the author used to spend his time on long summer evenings. [2]
3. What pleasure did he gain from so doing? [2]
4. Name two sounds that disturbed the stillness of the evening. [2]
5. Was the author aware that he was sitting later than usual on this particular evening? Give a reason for your answer. [2]
6. How was his reverie disturbed? [2]
7. What effects did the sudden appearance of the ghostly figure produce in the writer? [2]
8. Quote one example of an onomatopoeic word from the passage. [1]

[20]

The Conquerors of Rome

Roman writers seem to have been much impressed with the *high stature*, great bodily strength, fair complexions, blue eyes, and light coloured hair of the Germans. They also *bear testimony* to their bravery, their faithfulness to their obligations, 5 their love of liberty. But they are not blind to their faults—drunkenness, gambling, and *an excessive partiality for war*. The Germans undoubtedly varied a great deal in character, and in the degree of civilisation which they had attained. Goths differed from Franks and both differed from Vandals. 10 But all were alike in their ignorance of the art, literature, and science which had been developed by the Greeks and adopted by the Romans. For a time the effect of their spread over Europe was that *the declining civilisation of the Empire* was extensively submerged. Libraries and works of art were 15 neglected or destroyed, and the Western world fell back into a condition similar to what it had been before the Romans conquered and civilised it. But the loss was only temporary. The great heritage of Greece and Egypt and of Rome did not wholly perish. Centuries of turmoil followed the break up of 20 the Roman Empire: the period is appropriately known as the Dark Ages, but then came a recovery. The great works of Greece and Rome were esteemed once more; a new form of architecture arose, partly modelled on that of the Greeks and Romans; and science made far greater strides than it had ever 25 made in the ancient world.

H. A. DAVIES *An Outline History of the World*

QUESTIONS

1. Give the meaning of the phrases printed in italics. [6]
 2. Suggest alternatives for the following words, as used in the passage: obligations (l. 4); adopted (l. 11); heritage (l. 18); appropriately (l. 20). [4]
 3. (a) What features in the appearance of the Germans did the Romans specially remark? [2]
 (b) Why should these features have appeared noteworthy to the Romans? [2]
 4. Make a list of (a) the good qualities; (b) the bad qualities of the Germans as seen by the Romans. [3]
 5. 'In history, the Vandals have a reputation for . . .'. Complete the sentence by supplying the final word. [2]
 6. In what respects were all the Germans alike? [1]
 7. Mention some of the consequences of the German conquest of Rome. [2]
 8. What name is given to the period of unrest in Europe after the collapse of the Roman Empire? [1]
 9. How did the recovery from this period begin? [2]
- [25]

Living Dangerously

It has been my good fortune to spend some years of my life in the *less frequented corners of the world*, and I often ask myself who, among all the people I have met, are really happy? Who do really seem to be enjoying life? And I am bound to answer it is the so-called uncivilised people—so long as they are not so primitive as to be *obsessed with fear*. I am thinking of the Greenland Eskimo, the herdsman of Tibet and the Sakai—the little aborigines of the Malayan jungle. Yet when I ask myself why, why do they enjoy life, it is very difficult to find a satisfactory answer; but all these people have this in common: they spend their time in the open air; their livelihood depends on the exercise of a craft—hunting seals from an Eskimo kayak, and for the Sakai pursuing monkeys with blow-pipes and poison darts, and in the process of living they are *in conflict with the forces of nature*; they are forced by circumstances to *face hazards* and even to live dangerously. It is just the same in this country—at any rate in my experience—the people who are really contented are those whose occupations consist of exercising a craft or technique which brings them most closely in touch with the elements—the fisherman, the farmer and the game-keeper.

F. SPENCER CHAPMAN *Living Dangerously*

QUESTIONS

1. Give the meaning of the phrases printed in italics. [7]
2. Suggest alternatives for the following words, as used in the passage : primitive (l. 6) ; aborigines (l. 8) ; kayak (l. 13) ; process (l. 14) ; technique (l. 19) ; elements (l. 20). [6]
3. 'The so-called uncivilised people are really happy' (l. 5).
(a) Is that fair statement of the author's opinion?
(b) If not, what would you add to it? [3]
4. What meaning do you take from 'so-called' ? (l. 5). [2]
5. What reasons does the author give for the happiness of the people he has named ? [3]
6. Express, in your own words, 'Their livelihood depends on the exercise of a craft' (l. 11). [2]
7. Why, according to the author, are the fisherman, the farmer, and the gamekeeper among the most contented people in Britain? [2]

[25]

Monday

Monday was sunny and warm with a lighthearted western breeze blowing. The Lyalls slept later than usual and breakfasted in leisurely fashion on the back porch, with Lucy, rather wan and quiet, for her, wielding the paper fly brush at intervals to frighten a wasp from the jelly dish. Jeremy left promptly when the meal was finished since he could not afford to miss a book-selling day, Faith and Lucy began to tidy up the house, David elected to work in the garden for that morning, and Mary seated herself in one of the porch rockers with what was known as her 'Pretty Thoughts Box' on her knee.

When she decided long ago that she would observe Monday as a day of leisure along with David, she had to do some explaining in Ladykirk, where a wash on the line early Monday morning was considered almost as much an evidence of godly respectability as attendance upon divine worship on Sunday. But Mary had won out, even with old Brinnie Coombs, who helped with the laundry. The latter had insisted dourly at first that clothes never dried well on a Tuesday and also that everybody in town would blame *her* if the preacher's wash wasn't out on the proper day. But that had been long ago and now even Brinnie accepted the odd situation, and ceased to apologise.

AGNES SLIGH TURNBULL *The Gown of Glory*

QUESTIONS

1. (a) Give the surname of the family mentioned in the passage. [1]
 (b) What are the Christian names of the parents? [1]
 (c) How many sons and daughters do they have? [1]
2. Prove that Lucy was normally lively and high-spirited. [2]
3. What was the father's profession? Support your answer with a reason. [2]
4. How was Jeremy employed at this time? [2]
5. Put into your own words, 'A wash on the line early Monday morning was considered almost as much an evidence of godly respectability as attendance upon divine worship on Sunday' (ll. 14-16). [3]
6. Why did Brinnie Coombs insist that clothes never dried well on a Tuesday? [2]
7. What is the purpose in printing *her* in italics? (l. 20). [1]
8. To whom, and for what reason, did Brinnie feel at one time that she had to apologise? [2]
9. Give the meaning of the following, as used in the passage: lighthearted (l. 1); in leisurely fashion (l. 3); wan (l. 4); elected (l. 8); dourly (l. 19). [3]

[20]

Escape From The Moors

Having cast a *melancholy* look over the barren wilderness without discovering the most distant trace of human *habitation*, I descended from the tree to find my horse devouring the *stubble* and brushwood with great *avidity*; and as I was
5 now too faint to attempt walking, and my horse too much fatigued to carry me, I thought it but an act of humanity, and perhaps the last I should ever have it in my power to perform, to take off his bridle and let him shift for himself; in doing which I was suddenly affected with sickness and
10 giddiness; and falling upon the sand felt as if the hour of death was fast approaching. 'Here then,' thought I, 'after a short but *ineffectual* struggle, *terminate* all my hopes of being useful in my day and generation: here must the short *span* of my life come to end.' I cast (as I believed) a last look on
15 the surrounding scene, and whilst I reflected on the awful change that was about to take place, this world with its enjoyments seemed to vanish from my *recollection*. Nature, however, at length resumed its functions; and on recovering my senses, I found myself stretched upon the sand, with the
20 bridle still in my hand, and the sun just sinking behind the trees.

MUNGO PARK *Travels in Africa* (Adapted)

QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the words printed in italics? [4]
2. For what purpose had the writer climbed the tree? [2]
3. Why was he unable to continue his flight? [2]
4. (a) Express in your own words, 'an act of humanity' (l. 6). [1]
(b) Why was it an act of humanity to take the bridle off the horse? [2]
5. Tell what happened as the rider was removing the bridle. [3]
6. What thought passed through the horseman's mind at this time? Answer in your own words. [3]
7. Express more simply, 'Nature resumed its functions' (l. 17). [2]
8. At what time of day did the writer recover? [1]
[20]

The Old Quarry

- The Old Quarry is by far *the oldest relic of man's handiwork* in the district. The Romans started it in the first century to supply the building stone for Merchester, their large fortified camp on the military road to long-vanished Pennocrucium.
- 5 When they quitted England for good and the fine civilisation they had built up was overrun by wild tribes from the north and by *piratical marauders* from the Balkan countries, Merchester fell into rapid decay. For nearly a thousand years the building stones so carefully cut and squared by the superb
- 10 Roman craftsmen lay hidden and neglected under accumulated grass and soil. Then in early feudal times the massive castles of the powerful barons began to rise on well-defended sites all over the country. The Old Quarry was re-opened and contributed a vast quantity of stone to the *battlemented keep and*
- 15 *bastions* of Merchester Castle. Times changed, and the castle went the way of all things and *degenerated to a picturesque ruin*. For centuries the Old Quarry slumbered, unworked and uncared for, until the dawn of the mail coach brought a demand for better roads.
- 20 Once again the sound of hammer and chisel was heard in the Old Quarry whilst the stone for the foundations of the new high road was torn from its sides.

NORMAN ELLISON *Wandering with Nomad*

QUESTIONS

1. Suggest alternatives for the following words as used in the passage: quitted (l. 5) ; superb (l. 9) ; accumulated (l. 10) ; massive (l. 11). [2]
2. Give the meaning of the phrases printed in italics. [8]
3. (a) Who first developed the Old Quarry? [1]
(b) What was their purpose in doing so? [1]
4. For how long was the quarry neglected after the Romans left England? [1]
5. (a) When did work in the quarry re-commence? [1]
(b) To what use was the stone put at this time? [2]
6. Why was this stage in the quarry's life followed by another period of neglect? [2]
7. What was the last use to which stone from the Old Quarry was put? [2]
[20]



Blantyre

- Blantyre is a small, ugly, commercial town. It has not had much time, and no reserves of wealth, *tradition* or local pride out of which to shape itself. About sixty years ago the government dealt it an unkind blow by setting up the official capital
- 5 on the side of the huge mountain of Zomba, forty miles away, and so robbed Blantyre of a sure source of dignity and self-respect. *Ostentatiously*, pointedly and rather *disdainfully*, it was left to get on with its business, and however well it may have done it, it looks to this day rather ashamed of itself.
- 10 Fortunately this tentative little town hides itself behind the ample skirts of its surroundings, so the memory left with me is of a series of vivid but inadequate fragments. After my strange, precipitate flight from England we had emerged out of a narrow pass between *substantial* dark hills, mist still in
- 15 their laps, and driven straight into the centre of the town before I became really aware of it. I was surprised when the driver of the car said suddenly : 'Well, this is it !' I do not know what I had expected, but obviously nothing quite as drab and *insignificant* as these hunched, *perfunctory* buildings
- 20 dumped by the side of a road full of dust.

LAURENS VAN DER POST *Venture to the Interior*

QUESTIONS

1. Give the meaning of the words printed in italics. [3]
2. Make a list of six adjectives used in the passage to show that the appearance of Blantyre is not pleasing. [3]
3. Write a short paragraph bringing out all the reasons you can find for Blantyre's unattractive look. [4]
4. According to the author, how does it help a town to be the capital? [2]
5. Do you think Blantyre has had any success as a commercial town? Find a reason in the passage to support your answer. [2]
6. Express the first sentence of paragraph two in your own words and without using figurative language. If you wish, you may use more than one sentence for your answer. ('Fortunately . . . inadequate fragments.') [4]
7. What word in the passage tells us that the author's flight from England had been made with the minimum loss of time? [1]
8. Quote one example of a metaphor from the passage. [1]
[20]

South American Incident

Nature created South America on a grand scale. Nothing is moderate. There is no sunset—it is light and it is dark; there is a glut or there is scarcity; it is very dry or it is very wet. Now it was very wet. The rain fell in strings, looking much as one sees it in certain Japanese wood-block prints. We adjusted our rubber ponchos¹ and for as long as we did not lift our heads we were snugly dry. The road, as hard as macadam, was soon transformed into a slithering path and the horses, nervous of the flashes of lightning, found their footing unsure. To add to the unpleasantness it began to hail; ice-stones the size of hazelnuts played a drum beat on my taut rubber poncho. A flash brilliant enough to light up the whole sky showed Silvia just ahead of me. At the next flash she was gone—vanished. I flung myself off my horse, ran to the side of the road and looked into the ink-black darkness. Another flash of lightning—and to my utter horror I saw Silvia and her horse rolling down the hillside. They stopped when the horse struck a thicket; the horse struggled to its feet. Silvia lay unmoving.

VICTOR VON HAGEN *Highway of the Sun*

¹ Poncho—a cloak with an opening in the middle for the head.

QUESTIONS

1. Express the meaning of the first sentence in your own words. [2]
 2. Supply the missing word in 'South America is a country of . . .' to convey the same meaning as 'Nothing is moderate.' [2]
 3. Describe the weather at the time of the incident related here. [1]
 4. What is a 'wood-block print'? (l. 5). [2]
 5. (a) Explain the phrase 'as hard as macadam' (l. 7). [2]
(b) What caused the road to become 'a slithering path'? [1]
 6. (a) Why were the horses more nervous than usual on this occasion? [2]
(b) What is the name of the person who accompanied the writer? [1]
 7. Describe, in your own words, how the author became aware of the accident. [2]
 8. What saved horse and rider from almost certain death? [1]
 9. Words which are opposite, or approximately opposite in meaning are called antonyms. Make a list of three pairs of antonyms found in the passage. [3]
 10. Quote an example of hyperbole from the passage. [1]
- [20]

Strange Lodgings

The valley, *getting steadily more inhospitable*, narrowed into a passage between towering cliffs ; we advanced along a track which *zigzagged capriciously* over patches of sand, round rocks or through little scraggy woods ; sometimes it dropped steeply
5 down to cross a ravine. We halted for the night in a tiny village, where there was an outcrop of little adobe¹ houses on a broad ledge between the river and the cliff overlooking it. There was no inn, but I managed to install myself in a wretched building ; it consisted of a small table and a large, dirty, smoke-
10 filled living-room. The place was *cluttered up* with human beings, animals, piles of firewood and primitive farm implements, all barely distinguishable from each other in the dim light of oil lamps. The noise and smoke were too much for me ; my two bodyguards—nice men *who took my personal*
15 *welfare seriously*—helped me to settle down on a pile of hay outside. Night fell, and after it, less precipitately, silence ; I lay there, curled up in my warm sleeping-bag, *savouring the cold*, still darkness, enjoying a tranquillity which sounds from the stable—the stamp of a hoof, the tinkle of a bell on a head-
20 stall—were powerless to disturb.

ANDRE MIGOT *Tibetan Marches*

(Translated by Peter Fleming)

¹ adobe—unburnt brick dried in the sun.

QUESTIONS

1. Explain the meaning of the phrases printed in italics. [8]
2. Suggest alternatives for the following words as used in the passage: scraggy (l. 4); ravine (l. 5); wretched (l. 8); primitive (l. 11); precipitately (l. 16); tranquillity (l. 18). [3]
3. Name three features of the valley which justify its description as inhospitable. [2]
4. 'An outcrop of little adobe houses' (l. 6). Describe in your own words the picture this calls up in your mind. [2]
5. Write a short paragraph descriptive of the interior of the living-room. [4]
6. Give more than one reason why the author chose to sleep outside. [2]
7. How do you know from the last sentence that twilight lasted only a short time in that country? [2]
8. Sometimes, almost as an afterthought, a writer inserts into a sentence a remark which has no real connection with the grammatical sequence of the sentence itself. Such an insertion is called a parenthesis, and it is separated from the rest of the sentence by commas, by brackets, or by dashes. [2]
Find two examples of parentheses in this extract. [25]

The King of the Baboons

The old yellow-fanged dog-baboon that was chained to a post in the yard had a dangerous trick of throwing stones. He would seize a piece of rock in two hands, stand erect and whirl round on his heels till momentum was obtained, and
5 then—let go. The *missile* would fly like a bullet, and woe betide any one who stood in its way. The performance precluded any kind of aim; the stone was hurled off at any chance *tangent*: and it was bad luck rather than any kind of *malice* that guided one three-pound boulder through the window
10 across the kitchen, and into a portrait of Judas de Beer which hung on the wall not half-a-dozen feet from the slumbering Vrouw Grobelaar.

She bounced from her chair and ballooned to the door with a silent swift *agility* most surprising to see in a lady of her
15 generous build, and not a sound did she utter. She was of good veld-bred fighting stock, which never cried out till it was hurt, and there was even something of compassion in her face as Frikkie jumped from the stoep with a twelve-foot thong in his hand. It was, after all, the baboon that suffered
20 most, if his yells were any *index* to his feelings. Frikkie could smudge a fly ten feet off with just a flick of his whip, and all the tender parts of the accomplished animal came in for *ruthless* attention.

PERCEVAL GIBBON *The King of the Baboons*

QUESTIONS

1. Explain clearly the meaning of 'till momentum was obtained' (l. 4). [2]
 2. Express in your own words, 'The performance precluded any kind of aim' (l. 6). [2]
 3. Rewrite in your own words, the story of the incident described in paragraph one. [5]
 4. (a) Why was it surprising that Vrouw Grobelaar should move so quickly and quietly? [2]
 (b) What words in the first sentence of paragraph two reinforce the impression of Vrouw Grobelaar's stoutness? [3]
 5. In what country did Vrouw Grobelaar live, and to what nationality did she belong? [2]
 6. (a) How was the baboon punished? [2]
 (b) What was its reaction? [1]
 7. Why does the author describe the baboon as an 'accomplished animal'? (l. 22). [2]
 8. (a) What is the meaning, as used in this passage, of the words printed in italics? [3]
 (b) Suggest a substitute expression for 'woe betide' (l. 5). [1]
- [25]

Natural and Synthetic Diamonds

Whether it is more sensible to look for natural diamonds and separate them from enormously greater masses of useless material or to make synthetic diamonds under conditions of high pressure and temperature is *irrelevant* for practical purposes at the present time. The demand for *industrial* diamonds is huge and affects the minimum size of natural diamond which it is worth while to recover. The making of synthetic diamonds is only a few years old, but has grown to a *substantial* industry. Synthetic diamonds of gemstone quality or size are not in sight of being made, but, on the other hand, there is the possibility of making industrial diamonds whose shape and possibly other properties can be controlled by the conditions in which they are formed. World-wide efforts involving many branches of science have led to improved methods for both the *location* and recovery of natural diamonds. Advances in the production of synthetic diamonds may be expected. Nuclear reactors have provided means for altering by *irradiation*, sometimes combined with heat treatment, the properties of diamonds which already exist. Knowledge of diamonds found in meteorites has affected procedures for making synthetic diamonds, while experience of the conditions in which synthetic diamonds can—and cannot—be made has affected ideas about the formation of natural diamonds.

H. JUDITH MILLEDGE *Natural and Synthetic Diamonds*

QUESTIONS

1. Give the meaning of the words printed in *italics*. [5]
 2. What is the difference between natural and synthetic diamonds? [2]
 3. Name one reason why natural diamonds are expensive to produce. [2]
 4. The author says that it is pointless to argue whether it is better to look for natural diamonds or produce them synthetically. Give two reasons on which his opinion is based. [4]
 5. What effect has the manufacture of synthetic diamonds had on the sale of very small natural stones? [2]
 6. Why are large natural diamonds still very valuable despite the competition of synthetic stones? [2]
 7. What development might result in the value of natural diamonds dropping sharply? [1]
 8. By what means may the properties of existing diamonds be altered? [2]
 9. (a) What is a 'meteorite'? (l. 20). [2]
(b) How has the study of meteorites helped the production of synthetic diamonds? [1]
 10. What indication do you find in the passage that some attempts to produce synthetic diamonds were unsuccessful? [2]
- [25]

East Africa and the Portuguese

The Portuguese did not arrive in East Africa on any colonising mission. They were looking for a route to India and they left garrisons in the Arab cities, which became victualling and repair bases for ships bound to and from their Far Eastern possessions. During the two and a half centuries of their domination of the coast they did not concern themselves with the cities they garrisoned, except to keep them in subjection, and took no interest in the welfare of the people. In the larger cities, such as Mombasa, the garrisons lived in forts and held the population down with the utmost brutality. Mombasa was the scene of intermittent bloody war throughout the whole period of Portuguese occupation, and to this day the native name for the city is Mvita, the warrior. Legend and tradition on the coast have nothing to say about the Portuguese, who were feared and hated. The modern Swahili word for Portuguese is *Afriti*, a devil. When at length they were driven out it was as though they had never been, and the only remnants of their occupation are now the old fort at Chake-Chake on Pemba island and the curious custom which has survived there of bull-fighting, which is still carried on in a tame and rather jolly manner.

F. D. OMMANNEY *Isle of Cloves*

QUESTIONS

1. (a) Explain the meaning of the following phrases:
a colonising mission (l. 1); victualling and repair
bases (l. 3); utmost brutality (l. 10); intermittent
bloody war (l. 11). [6]
(b) Give the meaning of these words as used in the
passage: garrisons (l. 3); domination (l. 6); sub-
jection (l. 7); remnants (l. 17). [2]
2. Explain why the Portuguese first became interested in
East Africa. [3]
3. (a) For how long did the Portuguese hold mastery of
the East African coast? [1]
(b) How did they treat the native East Africans? [2]
4. Distinguish between a 'legend' and a 'tradition' (l. 13). [3]
5. What were the feelings of the East Africans towards
the Portuguese? Support your answer by reference to
a fact mentioned in the passage. [4]
6. What evidences remain of Portuguese rule in East
Africa? [2]
7. Why does the author call bull-fighting in East Africa
a 'curious custom'? (l. 19). [2]
[25]

Unpleasant Company

My fellow-convict was a Piedmontese. He had been a burglar, a forger, an incendiary. In his last escape he had committed manslaughter. Heaven alone knows how many sufferings were multiplied by that abhorred companionship—how I shrank
5 from the touch of his hand—how I sickened if his breath came over me as we lay side by side at night. I strove to disguise my loathing; but in vain. He knew it as well as I knew it, and he revenged himself upon me by every means that a *vindictive nature* could devise. That he should tyrannise
10 over me was not wonderful; for his physical strength was gigantic, and he was looked upon as an *authorised despot* throughout the port; but simple tyranny was the least part of what I had to endure. I had been *fastidiously nurtured*; he purposely and continually offended my *sense of delicacy*. I was
15 unaccustomed to bodily labour; he imposed on me the largest share of our daily work. When I needed rest, he would insist on walking. When my limbs were cramped, he would lie down obstinately, and refuse to stir. He delighted to sing blasphemous songs, and related hideous stories of what he had
20 thought and resolved on in his solitude. He would even twist the chain in such wise that it should gall me at every step. I was at that time just twenty-two years of age, and had been sickly from boyhood. To retaliate, or to defend myself, would have been alike impossible. To complain to the superintendent
25 would only have been to provoke my tyrant to greater cruelty.

AMELIA B. EDWARDS *Picking up Terrible Company*

QUESTIONS

1. Suggest alternative expressions for the phrases in italics. [8]
2. Give the meaning of the following words as they are used in the passage: abhorred (l. 4); loathing (l. 7); physical (l. 10); simple (l. 12); blasphemous (l. 18); hideous (l. 19); gall (l. 21); retaliate (l. 23). [4]
3. (a) What is an incendiary? [1]
 (b) Why did the author set out the three crimes in sentence two in the order he did? [2]
 (c) Which do you consider the worst crime of all committed by the Piedmontese? [1]
4. How was the ordeal of imprisonment made worse for the author? [2]
5. In what ways did he show his instinctive dislike for the Piedmontese? [2]
6. Why was the Piedmontese well-fitted to be a bully? [2]
7. Mention two facts concerning the author's earlier life which made it particularly hard for him to bear ill-treatment. [4]
8. Give four examples of the cruelty of the Piedmontese. [4]
 [30]

The War with Nature

To one fresh from the softness and smoothness of civilisation, unaccustomed to *manual labour*, how hard then is the lot of the settler ! Behind him physical comfort and beautiful dreams; before him the prospect of long years of *unremitting toil*, every
5 day of which will unfit him more and more for a return to the gentle life of the past; while, for only result, he will have food enough to satisfy hunger, and a rude shelter from extremes of heat and cold, from torrents of winter rain and blinding clouds of summer dust. Yet is he happy. For the
10 *vanished substantial comforts* and airy splendours there is a compensation gilding his rough existence with a better brightness than that of any hope of future prosperity which may yet linger in his mind. It is the feeling the settler experiences from the moment of his induction into the desert that he is
15 engaged in a conflict, and there is no feeling comparable with it to *put a man on his mettle* and inspire him with a healthy and enduring interest in life. To this feeling is added the charm of novelty caused by that endless procession of surprises which Nature prepares for the pioneer—an experience
20 unknown to the rural life of countries that have long been under cultivation. The greatest drawbacks and difficulties encountered have this charm strongest in them, and are robbed by it of half their power to discourage the mind.

W. H. HUDSON *Idle Days in Patagonia*

QUESTIONS

1. Suggest suitable alternatives for the phrases printed in italics. [8]
2. What is the meaning of the following words as used in the passage: physical (l. 3); prospect (l. 4); torrents (l. 8); gilding (l. 11); induction (l. 14); rural (l. 20). [3]
3. In your own words, describe briefly the difference between life in a civilised community and life as led by a settler. [4]
4. What rewards does the settler gain from all his hard labour? [2]
5. Why does the life of a settler bring out a man's best qualities? [2]
6. What is a pioneer? [1]
7. Suggest an alternative phrase for 'the charm of novelty' (l. 18). [2]
8. (a) Why is the charm of novelty particularly strong in the pioneer's life? [2]
 (b) In what way does it help him to face up to his difficulties? [1]

[25]

The Miracle of Danger

When we are suddenly confronted with any terrible danger, the change of nature we undergo is equally great. In some cases fear paralyses us, like animals, we stand still, powerless to move a step in flight, or to lift a hand in defence of our
5 lives; and sometimes we are seized with *panic*, and, again, act more like the inferior animals than rational beings. On the other hand, frequently in cases of sudden extreme peril, which cannot be escaped by flight, and must be instantly faced, even the most *timid* men at once, as if by miracle, become possessed
10 of the necessary courage, sharp *quick apprehension*, and swift decision. This is a miracle very common in nature; man and the inferior animals alike, when confronted with almost certain death 'gather resolution from despair' ; but there can really be no
15 trace of so debilitating a feeling in the person fighting, or prepared to fight, for dear life. At such times the mind is clearer than it has ever been; the nerves are steel; there is nothing felt but a wonderful strength and fury and daring. Looking back at certain *perilous* moments in my own life, I
20 remember them with a kind of joy; not that there was any joyful excitement, then, but because they brought me a new experience—a new nature, as it were—and lifted me for a time above myself.

W. H. HUDSON *Idle Days in Patagonia*

QUESTIONS

1. Suggest alternatives for the words or phrases printed in italics. [3]
2. The author names three different ways in which a man may react to sudden danger. What are they? [3]
3. What are (a) 'the inferior animals'? (l. 6); (b) 'rational beings'? (l. 6). [3]
4. Explain, in your own words, the meaning of 'gather resolution from despair' (l. 13). [4]
5. (a) To what word in the same sentence does the phrase 'so debilitating a feeling' refer? (l. 15). [2]
(b) What is the meaning of 'debilitating'? [1]
6. What figure of speech is contained in the expression, 'the nerves are steel'? (l. 17). [1]
7. Why does the author feel happy in the recollection of dangers faced and overcome? [3]
[20]

‘Coming out of shoot number six,’ a voice was intoning through an amplifier, ‘Pete Nantucket on Pinto Prince’.

And then into the arena hurtled a black and white typhoon; with difficulty one’s eye distinguished the wheeling outline of a horse. The head was lost to view under the belly, the tail clamped behind the quarters; out like starpoints, down like daggers shot the whirling legs; and with every leap they flung high the arched mountain of the little back. Upon the peak of this tortured eminence perched the unlucky Pete, but not for long. For, even as we applauded, his body shot from the saddle, described a graceful arc, and landed with a thud upon the ungente face of the arena. As for Pinto Prince, he turned back into an ordinary-shaped horse and cantered calmly up the field until he was caught and led away by one of the ‘pick-up’ men. The announcer was speaking again.

Coming out of shoot number four’ And before he had time to finish, out shot a sparkling chestnut, bent like a bow, and surmounted by a lean boy in a scarlet shirt, who, almost before we saw him riding, had ceased to ride, and was picking himself up and unconcernedly retrieving his hat. So we watched while innumerable young men described innumerable arcs, and when now and then one of them retained his precarious throne for the short but melodramatic period prescribed, we applauded in amazement.

MARY BOSANQUET *Canada Ride*

QUESTIONS

1. (a) What was the 'black and white typhoon' to which the writer refers in line 3? [1]
 (b) Why did she so describe it? [2]
 (c) What figure of speech is employed in this description? [1]
2. Write a short paragraph, describing in your own words the horse's efforts to unseat its rider. [4]
3. (a) Name the rider of Pinto Prince. [1]
 (b) Why is he described as 'unlucky'? (l. 9). [1]
4. What is the meaning of 'tortured eminence'? (l. 9). [2]
5. Explain the duties of a 'pick-up man' (l. 15). [2]
6. How do you know that the rider of the second horse scarcely retained his seat for an instant? [2]
7. Express in your own words 'unconcernedly retrieving his hat' (l. 20). [2]
8. Do you consider 'precarious throne' (l. 23) to be a good description of the rider's seat in the saddle? Give a reason for your answer. [3]
9. What do you understand by a 'melodramatic period'? (l. 23). [2]
10. Why did the spectators applaud 'in amazement'? (l. 24). [2]
 [25]

The Passing of the Age of Steam

I belong to the age of steam. I am out of tune with the internal-combustion engine. Petrol, oil and the paraffin jet belong to an *alien* world into which I have somehow or other survived. I am deeply suspicious of electricity. When I drive a motor-
5 car at a speed of over fifty miles an hour I have a feeling that the engine may blow up or fly apart. This becomes a *conviction* when I am driven at any speed at all by someone else. When I travel by air there is a tiny seed of *apprehension*
10 at the back of my mind which makes it difficult for me either to read or sleep in peace. But in a steam train I am perfectly at ease, and my memories of childhood are filled with railway joys, of admiring the engine at the start of a long journey, of halts on country single lines with the sound of the engine softly hissing and the air full of bird song and the smell of
15 meadow-sweet, of panting *asthmatically* through bluebell woods and cuttings deep in primroses. By ties that can never be dissolved I am deeply attached to steam engines, but at sea this attachment has a practical as well as a *sentimental* side. For the steam engine, as a means of propelling a ship through
20 the water, remains unmatched for *flexibility* and ease of handling. With no gears or other expensive and *complicated* mechanisms your smooth, elastic steam engine can go from stationary to full speed ahead or astern with a simple turn of a throttle valve in one direction or another. Furthermore
25 steam can be led from the engine by means of pipes all about the deck to *winches* and donkey engines which, again, can be controlled by the simple movement of a screw throttle. Yet in spite of all this, and in spite of the beauty of their great smoothly turning shafts, steam engines have a disadvantage
30 that nowadays overrides everything else. They are hopelessly expensive to run because of the high cost of fuel oil.

F. D. OMMANNEY *Isle of Cloves*

QUESTIONS

1. Give the meanings, as used in the passage, of the words printed in italics. [4]
2. Condense into a single sentence the meaning of the first three sentences in the passage. [3]
3. What is the commonest example of the use of the internal-combustion engine? [1]
4. Give two proofs, other than those contained in the first three sentences, that the author is, in a sense, old-fashioned. [3]
5. Make a list of the pleasures that the author associated with travelling by train. [2]
6. What, according to the author, are the outstanding advantages of steam propulsion at sea? [3]
7. Account for the gradual replacement of the steam engine by other methods to produce power. [2]
8. If you were to divide this passage into two paragraphs, where would you make the division? Give a reason for your answer. [2]
9. Quote from the passage: (a) two examples of metaphor; (b) one example of inversion; (c) one example of an onomatopoeic word. [5]
[25]

The End

